

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4909

To establish the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To establish the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tools for Community
5 Initiatives Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established in the Executive Office of the
8 President the Office of Faith-Based and Community Ini-
9 tiatives (hereafter referred to as “the Office”).

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECTOR.**

2 (a) DIRECTOR.—The head of the Office shall be the
3 Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Ini-
4 tiatives, who shall be appointed by the President.

5 (b) PAY OF DIRECTOR.—Section 5314 of title 5,
6 United States Code, is amended by inserting after the
7 item relating to the Administrator of the Centers for
8 Medicare & Medicaid Services the following new item:

9 “Director of the Office of Faith-Based and
10 Community Initiatives.”.

11 (c) INTERIM DIRECTOR.—The individual serving as
12 the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community
13 Initiatives on the date of the enactment of this Act may
14 serve as Interim Director until such time as a Director
15 is appointed by the President in accordance with sub-
16 section (a).

17 **SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall encourage
19 faith-based and community initiatives and work to elimi-
20 nate improper Federal barriers so as to allow faith-based
21 and community entities to compete for Federal funding
22 to the fullest opportunity permitted by law.

23 (b) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—In carrying out the respon-
24 sibilities of the Office, the Director shall—

25 (1) develop, lead, and coordinate policies with
26 respect to faith-based and community initiatives;

1 (2) support faith-based and community initia-
2 tives, especially those serving at-risk youth, ex-of-
3 fenders, the homeless and hungry, substance abus-
4 ers, those with HIV and AIDS, and welfare-to-work
5 families;

6 (3) work to expand the role of faith-based and
7 community initiatives through executive action, legis-
8 lation, regulation, and Federal and private funding;

9 (4) ensure that the policy decisions made by the
10 administration and the Federal Government are con-
11 sistent with stated goals with respect to faith-based
12 and community initiatives;

13 (5) help to integrate policies affecting faith-
14 based and other community organizations across the
15 Federal Government;

16 (6) coordinate public education activities de-
17 signed to mobilize public support for faith-based and
18 community initiatives by encouraging volunteerism,
19 special projects, demonstration pilots, and public-pri-
20 vate partnerships;

21 (7) encourage private charitable giving to sup-
22 port faith-based and community initiatives;

23 (8) advise the President on options and ideas to
24 assist, strengthen, and replicate successful faith-
25 based and community initiatives;

1 (9) provide policy and legal education to State,
2 local, and community policymakers and public offi-
3 cials seeking ways to support and encourage faith-
4 based and community initiatives;

5 (10) develop and implement strategic initiatives
6 in keeping with policies that will strengthen families,
7 communities, and the institutions of civil society;

8 (11) showcase and herald innovative grassroots
9 nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives;

10 (12) work to eliminate unnecessary legislative
11 and regulatory barriers which impede the efforts of
12 faith-based and community initiatives to solve social
13 problems;

14 (13) monitor the implementation of policies
15 with respect to faith-based and community initiatives
16 by the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Ini-
17 tiatives established within certain departments and
18 agencies of the Federal Government; and

19 (14) work to establish high standards of excel-
20 lence and accountability for faith-based and commu-
21 nity initiatives.

22 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

23 (a) OFFICERS.—The President shall assign to the Of-
24 fice such officers in addition to the Director, if any, as

1 the President, in consultation with the Director, considers
2 appropriate to discharge the responsibilities of the Office.

3 (b) STAFF.—The Director may appoint such employ-
4 ees as necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

5 (c) RESOURCES.—The President shall, in consulta-
6 tion with the Director, assign or allocate to the Office such
7 resources, including funds and other resources, as the
8 President considers appropriate in order to facilitate the
9 discharge of the responsibilities of the Office.

10 (d) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

11 (1) DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY LI-
12 AISON.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each des-
14 ignated department or agency shall designate a
15 liaison who shall be responsible for coordinating
16 the activities of that department or agency with
17 the Office.

18 (B) DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT OR AGEN-
19 CY.—For the purposes of this paragraph, “des-
20 ignated department or agency” means a depart-
21 ment or agency of the Federal Government with
22 a Center for Faith-Based and Community Ini-
23 tiatives, and shall include the following depart-
24 ments and agencies:

25 (i) The Department of Education.

1 (ii) The Department of Labor.

2 (iii) The Department of Justice.

3 (iv) The Department of Health and
4 Human Services.

5 (v) The Department of Housing and
6 Urban Development.

7 (vi) The Department of Agriculture.

8 (vii) The Agency for International De-
9 velopment.

10 (viii) The Department of Commerce.

11 (ix) The Department of Veterans Af-
12 fairs.

13 (x) The Small Business Administra-
14 tion.

15 (2) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Office
16 may secure directly from any department or agency
17 of the United States information necessary to enable
18 it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Direc-
19 tor, the head of that department or agency shall fur-
20 nish that information to the Office.

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